[English]

Foreign Exchange Earned by Shipping Corporation of India

2989. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the Shipping Corporation of India during each of last three years;

(b) the foreign exhange spent by the Shipping Corporation of India during the above period on the repairs and maintenance of its ships; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance given by the Union Government to the corporation during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The amount of foreign exchange earned by Shipping Corporation of India and that spent on repairs and maintenance during the last three years is as under:-

Year	*Earned*	*Spent on repairs & maintenance (Rs. in crores)*
1988-89 (9 months)	175	33
1989-90	264	43
1990-91	296	57

(c) The financial assistance by way of loan given by Government to Shipping Corporation of India during the last three years is as under:-

Year	*(Rs. in crores)*
1988-89	109.40
1989-90	138.41
1990-91	84.29

Trade between India and China

2990. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:
SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade between India and China has been declining during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of Indo-China trade during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Indo-China Joint Business council at their meeting held in New Delhi recently has drawn up some schemes to boost trade and identified areas for trade between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India-China bilateral trade during the last three years was as under:

Rs. (crores)

	Export from India	*Import from China*
1988-90	66.33	141.94
1989-90	39.10	65.84
1990-91	32.55	63.62

Source: DGCI & S

(c) and (d). The India-China Joint Business Council in its meeting held on 17.2. 92 identified the following areas for technology transfer and etblishment of joint ventures to increase bilateral trade:

1. Metallurgy
2. Chemicals for agriculture sector
3. Petrochemicals
4. Food processing
5. Sericulture
6. Automobile components
7. Telecommunication equipments and computer software.

Rates of Interest of Loans Advanced to Rubber Planters

2991. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of interstat which the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development advances loans to banks for rubber plantation;

(b) the rates of interest at which the bank advance loans to rubber plantro;

(c) whether the Government have received some complaints of charging high rates of interest from the planters by the banks during the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that in respect of loans for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO), the rate of interest of the refinance is dependent on the percentage of average borrowings from NABARD to the average outstandings against Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) at the Central Cooperative Bank Level during the Year. Thus interest rate on refinance are as follows: